

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the present application. The allowability of claims 2-8 and 23-27 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 2 and 23 have been amended into independent form, thereby placing claims 2-8 and 23-27 in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a)

Claims 22 and 29 have been amended so as to remove any reference to a "top wall." Therefore, Applicants believe that the drawings are now in the correct form.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-8, 28, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 2, 28, and 34 have been amended in accordance with the rejections as set forth by the Examiner.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 9-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones, U.S. Patent No. 1,352,002. As amended, independent claim 1 defines a drawer assembly that comprises, among other things, a front wall including at least one laterally extending flange located proximate an uppermost edge thereof, and a face plate having at least one laterally extending flange located substantially proximate an upper edge thereof, wherein at least a select one of a group consisting of the at least one flange of the front wall and of the at least one flange of the face plate includes a pair of flanges defining a first gap therebetween, wherein the at least select one of the at least one flange of the front wall and the at least one flange of the face plate is laterally spaced from an outermost edge of the respective front wall or face plate. As is clearly illustrated in Fig. 2 of the Jones '002 reference, the upper flange 26 extends the full width of the rear plate of the drawer head, while the top surface of the drawer head extends the full width thereof. As a result, neither of these flanges as argued in the rejection define a flange that is laterally offset from an outermost edge of the respective component, nor cooperate to define a

gap that is laterally offset from an outermost edge of the respective component. Therefore, Jones '002 does not anticipate that which is defined in amended claim 1.

Claim 14, as amended, defines a drawer assembly that comprises, among other things, a front wall that includes at least one laterally extending flange located proximate an uppermost edge thereof, and at least forwardly extending tab located along a side edge of the front wall, and a face plate having at least one laterally extending flange located substantially proximate an upper edge thereof, and a rearwardly exposed abutment surface, wherein the flange of the front wall and the flange of the face plate engage one another, wherein the tab of the front wall engages the abutment surface of the face plate, thereby coupling the face plate with the front wall, and wherein the face plate is supported solely by the front wall. As is clearly illustrated in Figs. 5 and 8 of the Jones '002 reference, the drawer parts are firmly locked in position at their front and by means of the rear plate 15 of the drawer head 10, which rear plate 15 has forwardly turned flanges on all its sides, the end flanges having the locking lugs 25 which enter the slots 17 and the lugs 16 on the drawer head 10, thereby locking the drawer slides 10 and 12 into said lugs and the drawer head 10. The upper flange 26 is shaped to spring within the box-shaped upper flange of the drawer head or front 10 so that said rear plate can be turned downwardly into place by first inserting said upper flange 26 within the box-shaped upper flange of the drawer head, said rear plate 15 turning in the line 27 as shown in Fig. 5. A leaf spring 28 is attached on the underside of the drawer bottom 13 and extends up through the slot 32 in said drawer bottom to engage in the continuance of said slot 32 in the lower edge 33 of the rear plate 15 of the drawer head 10. As the rear plate 15 swings into place, the lugs 25 are so spaced so as to seek the slot 17 of the lugs 16 at each end of the drawer head, in the upper end of the spring 28 is inclined so as to snap into the slot 32 in the flange 33. (See, page 1, line 108 through page 2, line 26.)

As is clearly shown and explained in the Jones '002 reference, the lugs 16 of the drawer head 10 are received within the slots 18 of the drawer sides 12 to support the drawer head from the remainder of the drawer assembly. Therefore, Jones '002 cannot anticipate that which is defined in amended claim 14.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 14 are in condition for allowance, as are claims 9-13 and 15-21 which depend respectively therefrom.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22 and 28-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones '002 in view of Gunzburg, U.S. Patent No. 3,649,095. Claim 23 defines a storage cabinet that comprises, among other things, at least one drawer assembly that is defined similarly to the drawer assembly as defined in claim 1, and is, therefore, allowable over Jones '002 and Gunzburg '095, as Gunzburg '095 fails to teach, motivate, or suggest that which is lacking from Jones '002, as discussed above.

Accordingly, claim 22 and claim 28, which depends therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been amended to include similar limitations to those noted above with respect to claim 14, and is, therefore, allowable over the cited art for those same reasons, as Gunzburg '095 fails to disclose that which is lacking from Jones '002.

Accordingly, claims 1-34 are currently in condition for allowance, and a notice of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 8, 2008

/Brian E. Ainsworth/
Brian E. Ainsworth, Reg. No. 45808
PRICE, HENEVELD, COOPER, DEWITT & LITTON, LLP
695 Kenmoor, S.E.
P.O. Box 2567
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
616.949.9610